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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Livestock Slaughter
Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during April totaled 500,000 pounds, down 17 percent from March 2011 but unchanged from the previous year.

There were 400 head of **cattle** slaughtered during April, down 100 head from the previous month and the previous year. Average live weight was 789 pounds, down three pounds from the previous month and 42 pounds below April 2010. Total live weight, at 341,000 pounds, was down 17 percent from the previous month and 13 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during April totaled 300 head, down 100 head from the previous month and 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 537 pounds, up one pound from the previous month and three pounds above April 2010. Total live weight, at 182,000 pounds, was down 13 percent from the previous month and 24 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during April totaled 1,000 head, down 200 head from the previous month but 100 head above the previous year. Average live weight was 191 pounds, down 26 pounds from the previous month and ten pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 183,000 pounds, down 32 percent from the previous month and one percent below the previous year.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during April was 200 head, unchanged from the previous month but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 62 pounds, down 11 pounds from the previous month and 14 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.9 billion pounds in April, down four percent from the four billion pounds produced in April 2010.

April 2011 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and five Saturdays. **April 2010** contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.1 billion pounds, was four percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.7 million head, down four percent from April 2010. The average live weight was up four pounds from the previous year, at 1,257 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.2 million pounds, eight percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,900 head, down 14 percent from April 2010. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from last year, at 296 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.8 billion pounds, down three percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 8.6 million head, down five percent from April 2010. The average live weight was up four pounds from the previous year, at 277 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.3 million pounds, was up 11 percent from April 2010. Sheep slaughter totaled 206,700 head, nine percent above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up two pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2011 commercial red meat production was 16.1 billion pounds, up one percent from 2010. Accumulated beef production was up one percent from last year; veal was down four percent; pork was up one percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down ten percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	March	April		January - April		April		January - April	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.8	1.7	2,846.0	2,722.0	11,009.8	11,038.8
Calves	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.7	1.4	68.5	58.9	305.3	272.4
Hogs	1.2	0.9	1.0	4.3	4.0	9,056.2	8,630.6	36,686.1	36,116.8
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.2	0.9	190.2	206.7	818.8	716.8
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	410	394	341	1,416	1,449	3,552,510	3,408,872	13,984,982	14,075,569
Calves	210	239	182	967	783	18,657	17,139	76,595	73,370
Hogs	268	185	183	853	784	2,466,680	2,390,248	9,955,925	10,018,432
Sheep & Lambs	17	21	15	89	62	25,917	28,579	111,979	100,917
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	792	831	789	787	852	1,253	1,257	1,275	1,280
Calves	536	534	537	569	559	275	296	254	276
Hogs	217	201	191	198	196	273	277	272	278
Sheep & Lambs	73	76	62	74	69	136	138	137	141
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	0.6	0.5	0.5	2.0	2.0	4,012.4	3,870.4	15,946.9	16,070.5

May Farm Prices Received Index Decreased 1 Point

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 174 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased one point from April. The Crop Index was unchanged but the Livestock Index decreased three points. Producers received lower prices for cattle, corn, eggs and strawberries and higher prices for hay, broilers, celery and lettuce. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a three-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of wheat, cantaloupes, broilers and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, milk and soybeans. The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 36 points from May 2010. The Food Commodities Index, at 165, decreased two points from last month but increased 27 points from May 2010.

Prices Paid Index Up 1 Point

The May Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 204 percent of the 1990-1992 average. The index was up one point from April and 23 points above May 2010. Higher prices in May for hay & forages, complete feeds, nitrogen and gasoline more than offset lower prices for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, feed grains and concentrates.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	May 2010	April 2011	May 2011 ¹	May 2010	April 2011	May 2011 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	9.06	12.00	2/	9.41	13.10	13.00
Sorghum, per cwt.	2/	2/	2/	5.69	11.70	10.80
Rice, per cwt	13.30	12.40	12.20	13.80	13.00	13.40
Upland cotton, per pound	.673	.790	.790 ³	.666	.873	.803 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	116.00	141.00	169.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	68.20	5/	5/	94.70	119.00	115.00
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	98.60	5/	5/	99.70	122.00	118.00
Cows, per cwt ⁵	54.50	5/	5/	59.00	78.90	79.10
Calves, per cwt	110.00	5/	5/	124.00	147.00	141.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.520	.490	.500
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.633	1.050	.822
Milk, all, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.00	19.60	19.40

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Estimates discontinued in 2011.

⁶ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

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